



# Great Basin Critical Incident Peer Support

## Supporter Roles and Responsibilities



### What is a Peer or Person of Equal Respect?

A Peer or a "Person of Equal Respect" is an individual who has a willingness to help others in times of crisis. A Peer is a person of the same background with extensive experience in their "culture" within the wildland fire community. A peer to a firefighter on a hotshot crew for example, would have substantial (and preferably current experience) on the fireline and within the hotshot crew community.

A Great Basin Peer Support Group Member is a highly respected and trusted fire person from all aspects of national fire programs (dispatchers, engine crew members, hotshot and other crews, helitack, smokejumpers and many other specialties). A Peer Support Group Member is someone from an agency's fire program who has volunteered to take the training required to support impacted peers with information, assist Mental Health Care Clinicians in the delivery of various crisis intervention protocols (defusing, information briefing, etc.). A Peer Supporter participates in training and training events and assists in overall program development when possible.

Peer Supporters are required to keep confidences, committed to the program, willing to adhere to established limits and protocols, aware of their boundaries, and trained to seek guidance and assistance when appropriate. They are the main service providers in conjunction with a Mental Health Clinician for the Great Basin Peer Support Program.

There are no training assignments per se for peer supporters, if you take an assignment you are traveling as a full peer support team member, through the Team Leader will take your experience level into account when making assignments.



### Specific Roles and Responsibilities of Peer Supporters

#### Training & Education

- Successful completion of the International Critical Incident Support Foundation's Basic Peer and Group Support course.
- Emphasize to co-workers, managers and others what a peer is and is not.

#### CI Peer Support Responses

- Assist the Team Leader and Clinician in providing Crisis Management Briefings, defusings, one-on-one on one and small group information sharing and debriefings when directed.
- Assist the Team Leader and Clinician in setting up and organizing the formal meetings (location, seating, refreshments, assembling resource information and literature to be available at debriefing, etc.).
- Be self-sufficient (Travel Card or Credit Card).
- For the peers of fireline personnel you are required to have all the required PPE to meet with effected personnel on fireline, spike camps (and spend the night if needed) and other remote locations well away from traditional hotels and meeting rooms.

#### Contacts

- Recuse themselves from any investigations, AARs, lessons learned, or speaking events based on any aspect of any incident they have been with the peer support group on. This includes HRSP and Civil Rights personnel not specifically assigned to CISM duties.
- Prior to the arrival of the Team Leader they may be called on to initiate contact with local managers and explain the peer support program to them. Meet those who have been involved in, or have responded to, a critical incident, estimate the number of persons involved, perform initial assessment of the need for a Crisis Management Briefing or Defusing.